

## SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

---

Tuesday, March 16, 2021, 5:30 p.m, via Zoom

---

Present: Selectboard members Richard Baker, Christopher Martin, and Laurie Colgan; Town Clerk Bobbi Brimblecombe; Visitors Patrick Healy (Director, Green Mount Cemetery), Grace Vinson (CVRPC), Susan Green (Library Director); Will Schwarz (Fire Chief); Scott Ciampi (Road Crew member)

At 5:33 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Chair Chris Martin

**Changes or additions to the agenda:** Grist Mill Place

**Public Comment:**

**Minutes:** The Board approved the minutes of the February 16 and March 2, 2021 meetings.

**Cemeteries:** Chris explained that the Selectboard has been working on a revised Cemetery Ordinance and the issue of green burials came up. The Board wanted to hear Patrick's insights. Patrick explained that when considering natural burials, there are a lot of details to be considered, including the materials that will be allowed for a shroud and the materials that will be used to lower the body. He also noted that natural burials need to occur in the winter and on very short notice. He suggested that the Board should investigate whether people want to have the natural area mowed or allowed to grow. He indicated that in Green Mount Cemetery, they backfill the lots with a compost and sand mix rather than the material that comes out of the lot, and it seems to be working well. There is an area in Green Mount Cemetery that has been set aside for natural burials. The area is only mowed once per year. No monuments are allowed in this area but flat markers are required. They are also considering allowing natural burials in the regular cemetery. They are still experimenting with the best methods. Natural burial graves are smaller than regular graves, and shallower to speed up decomposition. He noted that families will need to be educated about the condition of the body and what to expect. The Town also needs to decide who will be allowed to transport the body to the grave.

Laurie asked whether the bodies are in some sort of container. Patrick stated that they have had a few people buried in cloth shrouds, and a few in wicker baskets. Laurie asked whether there should be a separate area for natural burials or whether there are any issues with commingling natural and vaulted burials. Patrick indicated that it depends what residents want. In Green Mount, people wanted a natural area with grass and wildflowers. They have also found that some people want a natural burial in the regular cemetery area, where they can have a monument.

Patrick suggested learning more about the process before making a decision about whether to allow it. He suggested Green Burial Council as a source of information. The Board will also need to decide how to handle burials when someone died from something contagious.

**Hazard Mitigation Plan:** Grace Vinson from the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission presented the Board with an overview of hazard mitigation plans and the update process. There will be

public meetings and surveys to allow the public to be involved in the planning process. This project will be funded by a Hazard Mitigation grant from FEMA.

**Grist Mill Place:** VTrans notified the Town about a drainage issue on Grist Mill Place. The Road Crew checked and found that the issue had been resolved.

**Fire Department:** Will updated the Board on the trucks – the tanker is being refurbished, and the pickup is being turned into a brush truck. The members who wanted to be vaccinated, have been.

**Informational meeting:** The Board discussed plans for how to facilitate the meeting. Bobbi will publish the warning on Front Porch Forum and the website, and post it around town.

**COVID/Old Schoolhouse Common:** Susan Green asked permission to let people into the Library. The front door to the building would remain locked, but when people ring the bell, Susan would let them into the Library. The remainder of the building would remain closed, at least until after Town Meeting. The Board agreed with her proposal. If there are more COVID funds available, the Board will look into whether they can be used to update the side entrance so people could come directly into the Library. Susan informed the Board that she has been working on a grant to extend the Library's free wifi service to the other side of the building.

**Meeting Change:** The Board changed the April 6<sup>th</sup> meeting to April 8<sup>th</sup>, because Town Meeting is the 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Sugaring Lease at Stranahan Town Forest:** The Board reviewed and approved the lease of 140 taps to Neil Dunlop, and authorized Rich to sign the lease.

**Health Officer:** The Board approved the appointment of Kathleen Hayes as Health Officer. She is currently the Zoning Administrator and will receive the same hourly rate for both jobs.

**Legal issue:** Laurie moved at 7:45 to go into executive session. The Board returned to open session at 7:55.

**Expenses, Permits & Payroll:** Selectboard members read and signed reports for General Expenses and Payroll and authorized Rich to sign them.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bobbi Brimblecombe, Town Clerk

The foregoing is a true copy of the Minutes of the March 16, 2021 Selectboard Meeting.  
A True Record. Attest, \_\_\_\_\_, Town Clerk

\*\*\*\*\*